

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Masajirou INOUE et al

Serial No.: New Continuation Application of  
U.S.S.N. 09/877,233

Filed: November 8, 2001

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Atty. Docket No.: 106145-00029

For: LIQUID THERMOSETTING SEALING AGENT FOR POLYMER ELECTRODE  
MEMBRANE FUEL CELL, SINGLE CELL FORMED WITH SEALING AGENT,  
ITS PROCESS, AND PROCESS FOR REGENERATING POLYMER ELECTRODE  
MEMBRANE FUEL CELL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 8, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination of this application, please amend the above-identified  
application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend page 18, seventh paragraph as follows:

-- Figs. 19A and 19B are schematic drawings showing the state of the deformation  
of the separator according to the degree of surface pressure  $\alpha$  of the seal  $q_1$  according to  
the present invention and the surface pressure  $\beta$  of the diffusion layer. --

REMARKS

The above amendments to the specification have been made in order to place the Brief Description of the Drawings in the specification into conformance with the drawings being filed with the application. As required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, as amended, the above-amendment is a clean copy containing the amendments to the specification. Attached to this response, is a marked-up copy of the affected part of the specification showing exactly where the changes are being made.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC



Charles M. Marmelstein  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 25,895

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 400  
Washington, D. C. 20036-5339  
Tel (202) 857-6000  
Fax (202) 638-4810

CMM:mmg

Enclosure: Marked-up Copy of Page 18

Fig. 13 is a graph showing the results of bending fracture test for separators each having various fracture stresses with the seal  $q_1$  according to the present invention or the solid seal  $r$  applied.

5 Fig. 14 is a schematic drawing showing the configuration of an apparatus used in the leakage test of the seal  $q_1$  according to the present invention.

Fig. 15 is a graph showing the results of the leakage test of the seal  $q_1$  according to the present invention.

10 Fig. 16 is a drawing schematically showing the configuration of an apparatus for thermal strain acceleration test and its process.

Fig. 17 is a drawing schematically showing the configuration of an apparatus for measuring the relationship between the surface pressure and the thickness relating to the seal  $q_1$  according to the present invention and its process.

Fig. 18 is a graph showing the results of measuring the relationship between the surface pressure and the thickness relating to the seal  $q_1$  according to the present invention.

*Figs. 19A and 19B are schematic drawings*  
 [Fig. 19 is a schematic drawing] showing the state of the deformation of the separator according to the degree of surface pressure  $\alpha$  of the seal  $q_1$  according to the present invention and the surface pressure  $\beta$  of the diffusion layer.

Fig. 20 is a graph schematically showing the